DAINTY- YES? NO?

DAINTY OR LA FRANCE? - - AND HOW COME? - Eric V. Golby

Many people are confused at our Hibiscus shows when they see a small light pink Hibiscus with a fringed edge in the miniature class, apparently entered under two different names: LaFrance and Dainty. Not everyone knows why.

In the early 1920's, right after the end of World War I, Reasoner Brothers of Oneco ordered a shipment of Hibiscus plants from Hawaii. in those days, Hawaii was a territory, not a state, and was subject to the plant quarantine act. The plants arrived by boat at the San Francisco customs and were rather badly handled in the inspection process. Many of the labels were lost and others mixed, so that when the shipment finally arrived at Oneco, the identity of some of the 35 varieties was in doubt. Before we go any further, let me say that the men of the USDA quarrantine inspectors that we have today are now dedicated men doing a wonderful job in a difficult situation of trying to keep out unwanted pests in an age of tremendous travel activity. Accidents like the one previously mentioned do not happen today. And today there is no inspection required on plant material entering from Hawaii.

The fringed Hibiscus schizopetalus was introduced to Hawaii at an early date and was crossed with some of their varieties. Among the unlabeled ones were a red, a salmon, and a light pink whose flowers showed some schizopetalus parentage. For descriptive purposes the first two were referred to as Red Hawaiian and Salmon Hawaiian, respectively. We hoped to find the original names, but we never have, and the descriptive ones 'stuck'.

We had an old German propagator at that time, and to describe the light pink one, he called it "the one that is the color of a LaFrance Rose". LaFrance was a light pink rose that was quite popular at that time,

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and it was a natural comparison. It was later cataloged by the descriptive term, small LaFrance Pink, and by that name it became known as we shipped all over Florida and elsewhere. In Texas it became known as Shirley Temple.

In the 1940's when Norman Reasoner began his Florida Hibiscus Bulletin, the first attempt to unravel the confused nomenclature that then existed, he corresponded with the University of Hawaii and others there in an attempt to get names. Our LaFrance Pink was easily identified as Dainty. The other two remain unidentified, mostly because the old time originators have passed on.

Under the International Rules of Nomenclature, the first or original name assigned to a plant shall be the one to take precedence. So, DAINTY it is! But after some 46 years it's still easy to say LaFrance!

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PRESIDENT APPOINTS

Mr. Lee Trainor, International President, has made the appointments to the Hybridization Committee and the Nomenclature Committee.

The Hybridization Committee consists of:
Harry R. Goulding, Chairman
Nat L. Shepard, Secretary
L. K. 'Pic' Thompson
Ross H. Gast
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